



Torbay Street Pastors Spring Newsletter 2008

We are proud to say we have 47 "Friends of Torbay Street Pastors" & counting



Above: Our Prayer Pastors on Commissioning Night.

Left: Some of our volunteer Street Pastors on Commissioning Night raring to go!

Special Points of Interest:

- Commissioning at Bohemia Night Club
- First Training Schedule
- Number of volunteers!
- The future

Our sponsors so far:



Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance (Missions)

Local Churches, many of our volunteers and Church goers sponsoring members of their congregation



Canon Mark Rylands Taking the Commissioning Service

37 Street Pastors Commissioned and ready to go!!

Finally Saturday 8th March dawned. We were all up early and volunteers were out gathering 200 chairs from various local Churches. Adrian and Jackie Hobbs, the owners of Bohemia Club, had very kindly said we could use the Club for our Service but we had to provide the chairs!

However, that operation ran smoothly, thanks to our valiant volunteers!

Our two intrepid supporters Jean and Alison who cater for our refreshment needs through training sessions set about putting refreshments together for 200 people. Our Coordinator from Enfield, Alison Hicks, who was representing Ascension Trust, and her fiancé John arrived safely having set off at 5.30am! Sam Nixson arrived and set up his keyboard, ready to lead us in

brilliantly in worship.

By 1.30 we were in uniform and ready for our guests.

It was so encouraging to see so many Church Leaders, Police, Council members, family and friends turn up to enjoy what was a momentous occasion for those of us who have such a passion for this ministry.

The Service was amazing and the presence of the Lord was tangible! All of us involved in this ministry are experiencing God's blessing.

The volunteers (37) were given an encouraging address by Alison Hicks, and commissioned by Canon Mark Rylands (Exeter Cathedral) who presented them with their Street Pastor baseball hats, a Certificate and a pocket New Testament. The New Testament to be given away when privileged to have

the opportunity to do so.

Canon Mark Rylands was also the bearer of great tidings—the Diocesan Mission Fund had agreed to sponsor us £3,900 per year for 3 years.

To all those who attended this very special occasion, thank you for your support.

At 9.30 we all (Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors) assembled at our safe base (Riviera Life Church) and received a very encouraging talk from Superintendent Chris Singer and off we went all 37 of us!

What a warm welcome we received from the youngsters on the street! It was fantastic!!

At 12.00am everyone went home except for 6 Street Pastors and 3 Prayer Pastors and the first shift took place!



On patrol

Training Schedule

Our Street Pastor volunteers have shown great commitment and loyalty by attending 12 relevant training sessions that equip them to be able to cope with the situations they might meet on the streets.

These sessions mostly take place on a Saturday and have enabled the Team to get to know each other.

Our local Churches have supported us by allowing us to use their premises free of charge and for this we are most grateful.

We are always looking for volunteers in Torbay who would take on a training session. If you are an experienced trainer and any of the subjects appeal please get in touch.

During our First Aid training session taken by St John Am-

balance we were filmed by Chloe Axford for BBC Spotlight. Some of you may have seen us during the news bulletin on Monday 3rd March.

To get all our initial volunteers through their training we have rolled the sessions on and repeated those that had been missed by some—these finish mid May.

We start our next training session on Saturday 13th September with Roles & Responsibilities taken by Eustace Constance of Ascension Trust.

During our training sessions we have been wonderfully catered for by our intrepid supporter Jean, who has faithfully served us with teas and coffees throughout. She has now been joined by Alison who will take over when Jean leaves.

The subjects we cover for our

training include, Police, Probation, The Homeless, The Bus, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Youth Awareness (communicating etc.), Counselling, Mentoring & Mental Health, Social Services, Sociology, Knowing your Community, Good News and First Aid.

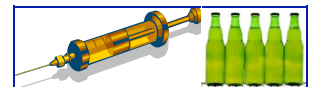
Even though our training recommences in September we will still be happy to take on volunteers through the Summer. These volunteers will be encouraged to get involved on the Prayer side of the night and also will be able to go out wearing an observer coat to experience a night out for themselves.

So if you are interested please don't be put off by the delay in training. September will soon come around and we would love to get to know you in the interim.

Roles & Responsibilities by Ascension Trust



Police Training



Drug & Alcohol Awareness



Youth Awareness



First Aid

The Teams

Currently we have 50 Street Pastors on our books, 39 of those ready to go with 11 coming on through training.

We have a Prayer Pastor Team of 17.

We also have 10 Home Prayers, though I suspect there are more who pray for us from home when we are on the streets.

Each Street Pastor and Prayer Pastor commit to working at least one night a month. We do have some very enthusiastic volunteers who like to do more.

Since starting we have been delighted to welcome Prayers who pop in even when not on rota and spend a few hours with us—that has been a great encouragement.

By the end of May all qualifying Street Pastors will have had one if not two nights on

the streets.

So far our experiences on the streets have been very encouraging. The Police and CCTV have asked us to take on various situations where we have been able to keep members of the public safe. Some have needed an ambulance others have had to be looked after to stop them being arrested.

One incident we came across we offered two 15 year olds to phone home for transport and were told their parents would be drunk. This couple had been in contact with the Street Pastor teams through the night and by 2.30am they realised they would find it difficult to get back to Paignton as all the buses had gone. The Team topped up their cash with £1 which meant we were able to wave them off, know-

ing they would get home safely.

During other patrols we have been asked who we are and when we say we are volunteers from all the Churches in the Bay we have been patted on the back and told we are "cool"!

We have certainly seen and witnessed many situations that we have been glad to pray for and to ask the Prayer Team at base to pray for.

So, after our first month, although we are still on a very steep learning curve we feel very happy to be involved in the calling God has placed on our lives.

After all, after Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan he said to us "Go and do likewise", and as we obey, He walks the streets with us.



Elizabeth, Malcolm and Avril Street Pastors

If you would like more information please contact Ros & Roger Ede on 01803 873529

Or email: torbay@streetpastors.org.uk

All Company sponsorships and personal donations are most gratefully received. It costs £300 to put a Street Pastor on the Street. All donations should be made out to Torbay Street Pastors.

The Future With volunteers contacting us all the time and the future looks very bright. We are praying we can fulfil God's vision and have teams in all Torbay and surrounding towns. The potential for this initiative is enormous! - Devon here we come!!!